

The City of Marion, South Carolina

Swamp Fox Scene

A FREE monthly news magazine for the citizens of and visitors to the Swamp Fox City



Volume 2, Issue 11

April 2012

Chamber offering second "Shred Day" for papers



With the April 15th tax day deadline quickly approaching, there is the rush to gather receipts and documents. Once the tax deadline is met and the proper forms are completed and filed comes the age-old question of what to do with the old tax forms and documentation.

The Marion Chamber of Commerce has a solution to any confidential document storage problem, giving its members, the local business community and individuals an opportunity to clear out old paper files.

As shown above, the Cintas company will accept your old documents from home or the office and securely dispose of them on Monday, April 23, from noon until 2 p.m. when the Chamber conducts its second annual "Shred Day" in the parking lot behind Baxley Hardware. Cintas, a company that oversees the shredding and disposal of all types of documents, will have a secure shredder set up in that location.

This project is sponsored by Ashley Brady at First Charter Company and Stacy Smith at Wheeler Street Package.

There is no fee for this service, but the Chamber will accept donations toward their 2012 Education Program. There will be a limit this year to the number of boxes you have to be shredded.

If you need more information or have questions on this year's "Shred Day", please call the Chamber office at 843-423-3561.

Great American Cleanup set for all of county, city

Citizens in all corners of the county will take part in a county-wide clean-up on Saturday, April 14, in conjunction with PalmettoPride as a fulfillment for grants awarded to various entities in the county.

As a Community Pride Grant recipient, one grant obligation is to stage a Great America Clean-up event between March and May.

Results of the clean up are then reported to Palmetto Pride. City and county officials say working together and selecting one day for the clean-up made sense.

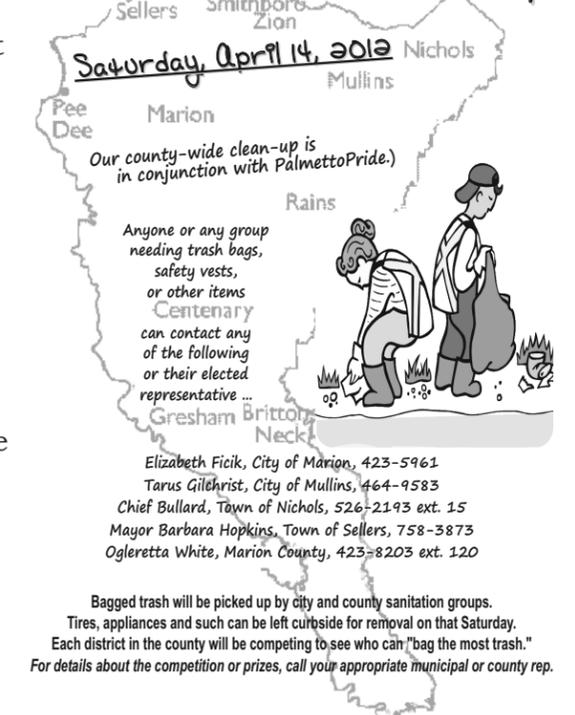
Anyone or any group needing trash bags, safety vests or other items can contact Elizabeth Ficik with the City of Marion at 423-5961;

Tarus Gilchrist with the City of Mullins at 464-9583; Chief Bullard with the Town of Nichols at 526-2193 ext. 15; Mayor Barbara Hopkins with the Town of Sellers at 758-3873; or Ogleretta White with the county at 423-8203 ext. 120. White said T-Shirts are available for participating groups, as well. Call her for details.

Bagged trash will be picked up by city and county sanitation groups and tires, appliances and such can be left curbside for removal on that Saturday. Each district in the county will be competing to see who can "bag the most trash."

White said anyone wanting details about the competition or prizes can call her.

Marion County's first county-wide Great American Cleanup!



Quick reminders about remembering City of Marion codes

The City takes pride in keeping Historical Marion looking beautiful. With Spring comes the warmer weather and the grass-cutting season is quickly approaching.

There are City Ordinances for overgrown and vacant lots. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Vickie J. Nichols at (843) 423-5961.

In case you didn't know, a tire, or tires, placed curbside in the City of Marion is considered litter by city ordinance for health and safety reasons and in ac-

cordance with DHEC regulations, city employees no longer pick up tires at curbside.



The fine for littering is \$1,092.50. Homeowners are to dispose of unwanted tires in the Marion County Landfill on Red Bluff Court or on Sen. Gasque Road.

Call the landfill at (843) 464-1157 for hours of operation. If you have any questions about this reminder, call the city administrator, Marion City Hall (843) 423-5961.

To property owners in the Historic District, please be aware of the zoning ordinances and guidelines that are in place before any changes are done to historic properties.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Nichols, Historic District Official, City of Marion at (843) 423-5961.

CITY NEWS



City selects Brown as Employee of the Month

The City of Marion selected Sanitation Department employee Hezekiah Brown as the February 2012 Employee of the Month. Hezekiah has been employed with the City since 2007 and is responsible for collecting large household items and yard debris from citizens and transporting these items to the landfill.

"Hezekiah is one of our most dependable and dedicated employees," said Sanitation Superintendent Winky Fore.

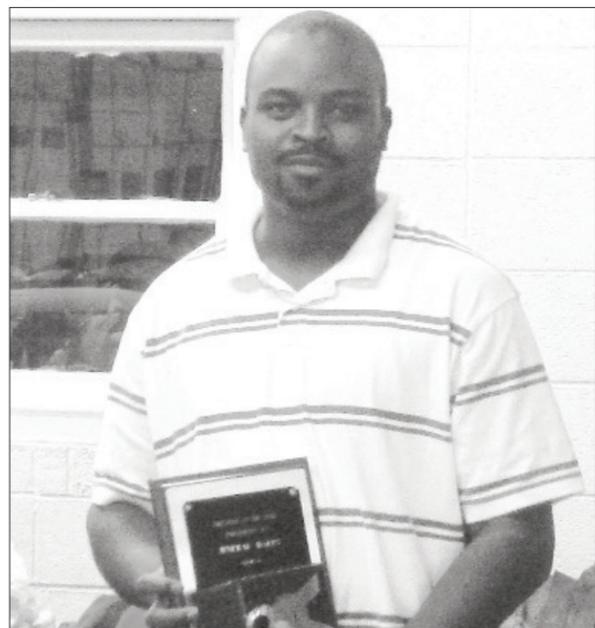
The Mayor and Council recognized Hezekiah Brown for his contributions and loyalty to the City of Marion at the March 13th City Council Meeting.

Annual city banquet honors employees

Among the many recognitions during the March 20th City of Marion Employee Recognition banquet was the naming of the Employee of the Year.

This award, Mayor Rodney Berry said, recognizes one employee who has excelled in his or her work in the past year.

This year, that award goes to Jeneral Harps, shown below. The Mayor appoints a committee to take recommen-



dations from Department Heads to give to him for his review. This committee selects the person whom they believe has made the most significant contribution to the City.

Once again, Berry said, "an exceptional individual has been chosen, and I wholeheartedly agree with their decision." This is an annual tradition started by former Mayor T. Carroll Atkinson Jr. to recognize an employee for outstanding service to the City.

According to his supervisor, Ronnie Sanders, Jeneral is "a young man with a lot of enthusiasm and there is no job too large or too small for him to tackle, from cutting grass to decorating for Christmas to driving the big blue storm drainage truck. He is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, day or night, and doesn't know the meaning of the word quit. And he does it with a big smile."

Receiving the Anonymous Committee's Award for Outstanding Public Service to the City of Marion was Mary Eaddy, shown above. The award honors

folks willing to give their time and energy to help better the city. As a leader and participant on numerous committees, including Fox Watch, Planning & Zoning, Housing Rehabilitation and the Citizen's Advisory Committee. Ms. Eaddy was honored for being an exceptional individual who is always ready to lead by example. "Her love for Marion and its citizens is evident in everything she does," the committee said.



Receiving the Fireman of the Year award from Chief Trey Cooper was Robert Lance Collins.

Receiving the Police Officer of the Year award from Chief Jim Gray, an award voted on by his peers, was Michael Hartson, shown at right.



Chris Hucks and Keith McNeil each received this year's Chief's Award from Chief Gray.

Service awards for longevity with the



city went to the following employees.

Five Years: Barbara Huggins, Aundry Bowens, James Brown, Dal "Pee Wee" Johnson, Harry McQueen, Andy Niedenthal, and volunteer firefighters Jamie Collins and Andrew Herring. Shown at the bottom of the page are Barbara, Aundry, Harry, Jamie and Andrew.

10 Years: Patricia Brown, Franklin Brown Jr., Dennis Brown, Poette Lewis, and volunteer firefighter Jeneral Harps.

15 Years: Charles Collins and Jackie Yates, both volunteer firefighters.

20 Years: Police Chief Jim Gray and Police Lt. Walker Davis, Perry Mason, and volunteer firefighter Walter Ray.

25 Years: Calvin Legette and volunteer firefighter Russ Cotton.

35 Years: Volunteer firefighter Aundry Bowens.

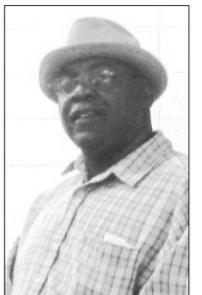
The only retiree of the year honored was Lt. Farmer Blue who retired as a police investigator after 18 years. Farmer Blue joined the Police department in 1993 and was described as a loyal, hard-working and dedicated officer. The Marion Police Department and the citizens of Marion were always his top priority. Lt. Blue retired in May 2011 and his absence is felt daily.



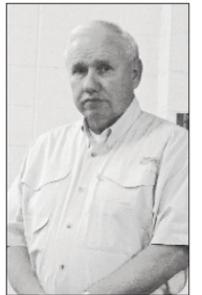
Lt. Walker Davis



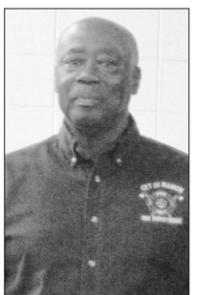
Perry Mason



Calvin Legette



Russ Cotton



Aundry Bowens



Chief Jim Gray

Coming up Keep up with what's going on around Marion!

April 3rd

Tuesday, 6 p.m., New book club; Meeting in "Lunch" on Dozier Street. First Tuesday of each month. Book to read for APRIL is **Heaven is for Real** by Todd Burpo. Call Carol at 423-7000 for details.

April 4th

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m., Olde Towne Marion, Rise & Shine, First Citizens Bank, Main Street. Everyone is welcome. Call 423-9918, for details.

April 6th

Friday, Good Friday; City offices closed.
7 p.m., Film Club Movie, Hugo, Emporium, Main Street.

April 9th

Monday, 5:30 p.m., Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, Fire Station, Bond Street.

April 10th

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., City Council (Second Tuesday of the Month), Council Chambers, City Hall, 107 S. Main Street.

April 13th

Friday, 6:30 p.m., Marion County's Relay for Life, Withlacoochee Park.

April 14

Saturday, 9 a.m., Opening Day of Baseball, Green Street Rec Center
9 a.m., Farmers Market and Market Place reopens for the season on Main Street (NEW LOCATION!)
1:30 p.m., Fox Field, Marion High School's Oldtimers' Game.
City-wide, County-wide Clean-up Day!

April 16th

Monday, 6:30 p.m., Marion's Fox Watch meeting, 332 N. Main Street.

April 18th

Wednesday, 10 a.m., *Denim Day Event*; call 423-7117 for information.

April 23rd

Monday, Noon-2 p.m., Chamber-sponsored "Shred Day!" behind Baxley's Hardware.

April 27th

Friday, 5:30 p.m., Frogmore Fest, tickets necessary ... Call 423-9918.

FOODS & FILMS ...

Contact Brian Nolan at 250-4322 about Marion's *Foodie* group or *Film Club*, sponsored by the Arts Council of Marion County. E-mail him at briannolanemail@gmail.com.

Coming in May ...

May 5, *Olde Towne Marion's Spring Yard Sale in Baxley Hardware's parking lot. Call 423-9918 for details*

May 18-19, *FoxTrot Festival! For details and information, call Chuck at 423-9918.*

'Denim Day' and more planned to promote sexual assault awareness

Marion City Council and Mayor Berry have prepared a resolution marking "Denim Day in Marion County," as proposed by the Rev. Marvin Hemingway, founder and CEO of South Carolina Woman to Woman Conference. The Conference is set for the third Wednesday in April, because April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Others helping him include Teresa Sims and Laura Mooneyham. Latoria Lewis with the Marion Boys & Girls Club, will also co-sponsor a Community Awareness Day on April 21.

Other events planned in April to bring attention to Sexual Assault Awareness include:

April 5, Easter egg hunt, Little Pee Dee Manor in Mullins, 11 a.m.

April 13, Movie Night from 7-9 p.m. in the CD Joyner Auditorium. (Free admission and free popcorn and drink.)

April 18, "Denim Day Marion County" Proclamation Ceremony, 10 a.m., location to be announced.

April 21, Final Four Basketball Tournament, 10 a.m. (Children v. The Community).

April 23, Earth Day, Little Pee Dee Manor, Mullins.

For information, call Teresa Sims at 423-6568 or Rev. Marvin Hemingway at 423-7117.



With Spring cleaning coming up, yard sales will be popping up all over town!

Remember to purchase your permit (\$3 per day) at City Hall Monday through Thursday. No yard sale permits are issued on Fridays.

Call Pam at 423-5961 if you have questions.

Group donating movies to library's collection

On April 6 the Marion Film club will be showing *Hugo* at 7 p.m. in the Marion Emporium. As always, organizers say, people may enter through the back door, and bring their friends, snacks, beverages and comfy chairs or pillows.

The Film Club is now going to purchase the movies viewed, rather than renting them. The movie will then be donated to the Marion County Library. Donations to help cover the cost of the purchase of the DVD will be accepted.

Additionally, we'll collect and deliver DVDs to give to the library if you have movies you'd like to donate, organizers said. Call 843-250-4322 for details.

Spring Frogmore Fest tickets available now

The third annual Frogmore Fest is set for Friday, April 27 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Rosewood Manor on Main Street.

The successful Olde Towne Marion (Historic Marion Revitalization Association) fundraiser will feature music for your listening pleasure.

Tickets for the event are \$15 each and are available in the HMRA building on Main Street. Call 843-423-9918 to reserve yours!



Visit the Marion Chamber's Facebook page and discover their latest news and things to do!

Also on Facebook are The City of Marion and the Farmers Market & Market Place!

NEED HELP WITH CITY SERVICES?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to point you in the right direction ...

Mayor	Rodney Berry, 843-423-8235
City Administrator, Building Official	Alan Ammons, Ext. 19
City Clerk	Pam Jones, Ext. 10
City Treasurer	Patricia Brown, Ext. 18
Municipal Court Clerk	Heather Evans, 843-423-8616
Personnel, Purchasing Director	Elizabeth Fick, 843-423-8614
Planning & Zoning Admin Assistant	Vickie Nichols, Ext. 11
Recreation Admin Assistant	Cheryl Askins, 423-5410

The *Swamp Fox Scene* is the City of Marion's free monthly news magazine for citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multi-forms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper. The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs. Call Mayor Rodney Berry or City Administrator Alan Ammons at 843-423-5961 for more information.

Questions about your water or sewer bill?

Call Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority at (843) 765-4539

or visit them in City Hall on Main Street.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Coming Up

The following playgrounds are open to the public and provide free fun for the kids.

Grice's Recreation Center, 603 Gurley Street. This location has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and a walking track on the side.

Tilghman Park, 409 Montgomery Street. This is the city's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings, and a merry-go-round

Withlacoochee Park, Withlacoochee Avenue. This location has also been updated with new equipment for the children. This site holds Marion's new Tennis Courts and a walking track.

Ready for Bingo?!? Let's play!

Bingo is offered at the Watsonia Recreation Center on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 8:15-9:15 a.m. There is always room for more to join in the fun. We offer refreshments for everyone and prizes for those who win. If you have any questions call 423-5410!

Need a rental?

It's time to begin planning your cookouts, family get togethers, birthday parties, and more!

From Watsonia and Grice's Recreation Centers to our outdoor Pop Dorsey Picnic Shelter, check with us to see if your date is available. Call Cheryl at 423-5410 for more details.

Opening Day ceremonies planned for baseball

Join the fun and support the coaches and players!

Opening Day Ceremonies for this year's baseball season are planned for Saturday, April 14 at the Green Street Complex. The day starts with team photos, and games begin at 9 a.m.

The public is invited to attend and to support the players and coaches of the 2012 Baseball, Softball and T-ball season.

For more information about this event or to volunteer to help, call Cheryl at 423-5410.

Games will be held at the following locations:

The Pee Wee Minors and Majors will play at Tilghman Park, 409 Montgomery Street.

The 9-12-year-old Boys will play at the Watsonia Recreation Center, 100 Recreation Drive.



The 9-15-year-old Girls and the 13-14-year-old Boys will play at the Green Street Sports Complex, 301 Green Street.

Visit our Facebook pages for updates on the recreation activities offered through the City of Marion.

Above, Rusty Cotton, left, and Billy Thompson, with the city's recreation department, measure the base line in preparation for the coming season.

Firefighters take to the courts for training

About 20 City of Marion firefighters recently played basketball in their turnout gear. There were two games, each with two teams of five, incorporating self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) training. The point of the training, Fire



Chief Trey Cooper said, was to familiarize the firefighters with the limitations of their protective equipment and with their personal physical limitations. Firehouse Basketball Rules were "normal basketball rules," with a few additions. There is no running on the fire ground, so there was no running in the game. When an individual's air consumption was up, the player was out of the game. The game continued without the team member who was out of air. This teaches the firefighter to exert themselves, but also teaches them to manage their air supply wisely. Cooper said, adding "... each firefighter's gear is approximately 50 pounds, is bulky and has limited visibility."

Survey says parents pleased with local Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club of Marion County conducted a survey of its parents last month. According to their report, 95 percent of the parents answering the survey said their child seems to enjoy the club and its programs; 95 percent said the club, in the Grice's Recreation Center on Gurley Street, is a safe place for their children to go after school; and 84 percent believe the club is having a positive impact on their children.

The Boys & Girls Club is open to children 6 to 18 years old. The club has 179 members, of which 51 percent is male and 49 percent is female. The membership, the report says, is representative of 13 different area schools and 10 zip codes.

Also, only 14 percent of the members live with both parents and for 95 percent

of the members, this is the only youth group to which they belong. The questionnaire asked parents if they thought their children's manners had improved since joining the club, (47 percent agreed); if children did their homework at the club (50 percent said agreed); and if the child feels accepted at the club (92 percent agreed).

The report also said that 95 percent of the parents agreed that having their children at the club makes it possible for them or someone in the family to be able to hold a job. Fifty-five percent of members' households make less than \$15,000 annually, the report said, with 82 percent making less than \$25,000 per year.

Other comments from parents said the club is a "positive improvement for

the children in the community," "the staff is very nice," and that it would be a great help to parents if the club was open on Saturday so parents could work ... and children could do something besides just watching television.

Parents noted that specifically their child was "learning how to be a leader," "more involved in his community," "more sociable," "gets along well with other kids and ... shares ... being a kid that respects others," and "interacts more with peers his own age ... in a positive way."

Seventy-one percent of the parents answering the survey said their child is more competent in dealing with every day situations as a result of being a member of the club.